

Question on Notice

No. 1734

Asked on 11 October 2016

MR SORENSEN ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS (HON Y D'ATH) –

QUESTION:

Will the Attorney-General advise (a) how many community visits occurred through the Office of the Public Guardian for children in out of home care (both foster and residential) in 2015-16 (reported quarterly by region), (b) how many community visits in (a) found children were not receiving education, training or employment opportunities relevant to the child's age and ability and (c) how many community visits in (a) found a child's needs for physical care, including adequate food, clothing and shelter were not being met?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Hervey Bay for his question.

Community Visitors are appointed by the Public Guardian under the *Public Guardian Act 2014* (the Act). The functions of a Community Visitor are set out in section 57 of the Act and include visiting children and young people in out of home care, inspecting and reporting on the appropriateness of a visitable location where they are staying, and advocating on behalf of children and young people with service providers where their rights and needs are not being met and in relation to any other concerns or grievances relating to their time in out of home care.

See table below for quarterly breakdown by region.

A total of **973** issues raised by Community Visitors were about the education needs of children and young people.

While the data system used by the Office of the Public Guardian does not disaggregate issues relating to physical care, food, clothing and shelter, these matters can be isolated for children and young people in youth detention centres and adult correctional facilities. Combined, children and young people in these facilities raised 88 issues relating to food and 39 issues relating to clothing and property.

Visits Conducted by Community Visitors 2015-16 Financial Year					
Location zone	1st Quarter 2015-16	2nd Quarter 2015-16	3rd Quarter 2015-16	4th Quarter 2015-16	Total
Brisbane North	310	280	324	430	1344
Brisbane South	492	483	466	563	2004
Brisbane West	519	500	577	554	2150
Central North	622	587	500	592	2301
Central South	576	593	481	633	2283
Far Northern	613	724	629	655	2621
Gold Coast	545	455	382	538	1920
Ipswich	887	925	895	976	3683
Logan	508	458	546	566	2078
Moreton and South Burnett	651	579	592	489	2311
Northern	508	516	418	415	1857
Sunshine Coast	379	360	406	450	1595
Toowoomba and Western	613	700	661	708	2682
Total	7223	7160	6877	7569	28829